

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 INR-10
IO-13 L-03 EB-08 NRC-05 SOE-02 DOE-15 SS-15
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S/AS: R KELLEY
ACDA: T GRAHAM
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-----076172 120011Z /21

O 112323Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 121005

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, IN

SUBJECT: HEAVY WATER

REFS: A. STATE 106266; B. NEW DELHI 6714

1. COURTNEY REQUESTED APPROACH SETHNA SOONEST AND INDICATE
U.S. WILLINGNESS SUPPLY 75 TONNES HEAVY WATER FOR INDIA'S
NUCLEAR PROGRAM UNDER SAFEGUARDS CONDITIONS IN PARA 1
REFTEL A.

2. IN SO DOING, IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR TO SETHNA THAT
THIS IS "TECHNICAL-LEVEL" OFFER IN RESPONSE TO HIS EARLIER
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INQUIRY. IF A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION CAN BE
DEVELOPED AT THIS LEVEL, IT COULD THEN BE RAISED TO THE
POLITICAL LEVEL AND WE WOULD WORK WITH THE DESAI GOVERNMENT
TO MANAGE DETAILS OF THE TRANSFER. IF NO SUCH SOLUTION
EVOLVES, THEN WE WOULD HOPE THAT SETHNA WOULD WITHDRAW HIS
INFORMAL REQUEST IN OUR BELIEF, WHICH WE ASSUME GOI SHARES,
THAT A PUBLIC CONFRONTATION ON THIS MATTER WOULD NOT BE IN

INTEREST OF EITHER COUNTRY.

3. WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS NOTED IN PARA 4, REFTEL B, IF SUCH EXIST IN INDIAN MINDS, WE WOULD EXPECT THEM TO BE RAISED ONCE DECISION WAS MADE TO ACCEPT U.S. OFFER IN PRINCIPLE. IF THIS WERE TO OCCUR, WE WOULD ASSUME THAT ANY SUCH PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED IN GOOD-FAITH NEGOTIATIONS.

FYI: INSOFAR AS QUESTION OF WHICH FACILITY COULD UTILIZE THE 75 EQUIVALENT TONNES OF SAFEGUARDED INDIAN HEAVY WATER, THE ONLY U.S. CONDITION IN THIS REGARD IS THAT IT BE A FACILITY OR FACILITIES WHICH WOULD BE UNSAFEGUARDED EXCEPT FOR SUCH HEAVY WATER UTILIZATION. IF, AS POINTED OUT IN REFTEL B, R-5 WOULD BE IN OPERATION SOONEST, PLACING IT UNDER SAFEGUARDS WOULD HAVE EARLIEST AND, THUS, PROBABLY MOST SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT. (CURRENT INFORMATION HERE INDICATES THAT MAPP-1 SHOULD BE IN OPERATION BEFORE R-5; PLEASE PROVIDE LATEST SCHEDULES.) SAFEGUARDS ON CIRUS WOULD, AMONG OTHER THINGS, BE OF BENEFIT FOR PUBLIC, CONGRESSIONAL AND SYMBOLIC REASONS. SAFEGUARDS ON MAPP WOULD BRING BY FAR THE GREATEST QUANTITY OF PLUTONIUM UNDER SAFEGUARDS. ON THE OTHER HAND, DESPITE INDIAN EFFORTS TO KEEP MAPP FREE OF SAFEGUARDS IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY MIGHT ULTIMATELY HAVE TO OBTAIN CRITICAL EQUIPMENT OR HEAVY WATER FOR MAPP FROM NON-INDIGENOUS

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SOURCES WHICH WOULD, IN ANY EVENT, BRING THESE REACTORS UNDER SAFEGUARDS. END FYI. VANCE

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NNN

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